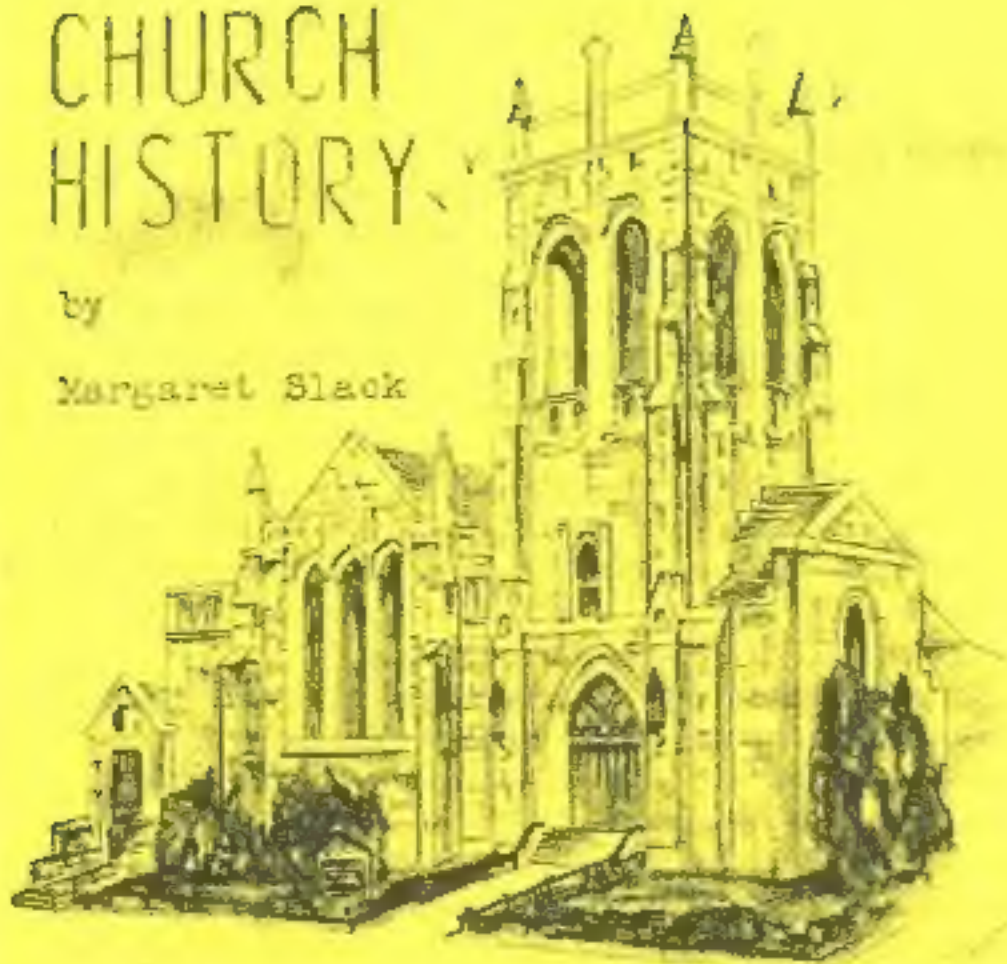


# CHURCH HISTORY

by

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## The First Baptist Church

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## PREFACE

This brief history of the First Baptist Church of Everett, Massachusetts was prepared by Mrs. Margaret Slack on the occasion of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1971. Because of the pressures of time and printing space it only appeared in shortened form in the anniversary booklet that was printed then.

It is appropriate that we who are part of this church in the present realize the Godly and rich heritage that we share with those who have gone before us in this place.

We print this history as a tribute to those who have worked so hard in this ministry--both pastors and people. But also we print it as a challenge to the present. That we might be diligent now so that the future may look back at our era and say, "Surely those were a people that God blessed."

Richard D. Concklin,  
Pastor

Following many months of controversy, debate and tied votes, the bill to incorporate Everett as a town was passed in the House of Representatives on Feb. 26, 1870 and sent to the Senate. The bill was finally engrossed in the Senate and on March 9th it was enacted in both Houses and signed by the Governor.

The achievement of this victory met with great rejoicing in Everett. On the evening of the day on which the Bill was signed the people gathered in the public square and in the vestry of the Congregational Church where speeches of congratulations were delivered and later that evening a salute of one hundred guns was fired in honor of the occasion.

In May, the organization of the new town was celebrated by a sumptuous collation served under a large tent in which some six hundred citizens participated.

Following its incorporation as a town, a number of people began to show interest in founding various religious groups in Everett. Among these were a group of approximately forty, who were either members of Baptist Churches or who had Baptist sentiments. At a meeting held at the home of a Mr. Levi Brown on April 5, 1871, a group met who were desirous of forming a Baptist Church. On Sunday April 9, 1871, the first public religious service of this group consisting of a prayer meeting was held in Everett Hall which was located in the new Masonic Building at the corner of Broadway and Chelsea Street. The prayer service was followed by the organization of a Sunday School.

On June 8, 1871, at a meeting again held at the home of Levi Brown, the First Baptist Church was organized with thirty-two constituent members and on July 3, 1871, the church was recognized by a Council of which the Rev. G.W. Gardner, DD was moderator. The first baptism took place on August 13, 1871, when Miss Emma Tufts was baptized at the First

## Baptist Church in Malden.

The first clerk of the church was Mr. W.O. Dodge, the first treasurer was Dr. Levi Pierce and the first Deacons were Dr. Pierce and Mr. P.F. Packard.

On September 24, 1873, First Baptist was formally organized as a corporation and on the 15th of October purchased a lot of land on Broadway for \$4,637.60. The corner stone of the church was laid on June 24, 1874. On the 22nd of September, 1874, the church was dedicated and the sermon at this service was preached by Rev. A.J. Gordon. The first Sunday service in the new church was held on September 27, 1874. There were seventy-three members at the time of the dedication. Land, building and furnishings cost approximately \$13,000. The building had a seating capacity of 280 in the auditorium and 75 in the vestry.

From the time of its organization until the year 1884, the pulpit was filled by a number of pastors or student supplies from Newton Theological Seminary.

In 1884, the Rev. William O. Ayer became the pastor and filled this position for a period of six years. His ministry was a very fruitful one during which the membership of the church increased. The Glendale Chapel was leased to First Baptist and on December 16, 1888, a Sunday School was opened there and the Glendale Mission established. In 1891, this became an independent organization known as the Glendale Baptist Church. During Mr. Ayer's ministry, it was resolved to pay off the debt which amounted to \$5,200. The day chosen to invite pledges for this purpose was Easter Sunday April 13, 1884. After a sermon appropriate to the occasion pledges were invited and in less than one hour the whole



amount was guaranteed. In 1866, it became necessary to make extensive repairs on the church and this was carried out during Mr. Ayer's pastorate. He was an earnest and efficient pastor and a man of great spiritual strength who involved himself in community as well as church activities.

The Rev. George B. Titus succeeded Mr. Ayer and commenced his labors at First Baptist on December 1, 1890. He was an able preacher who preached a strong and uncompromising theology. His pastorate covered the decade from 1890-1900. One of the most important events in his pastorate was the enlargement and remodeling of the church building. Into this matter he entered with great earnestness and at the Sabbath services on June 21, 1891, presented the subject in an eloquent sermon with so much effect that nearly \$9,000.00 was pledged for the purpose on that day. The work of remodeling began almost immediately. The building was raised so as to provide a vestry in the basement, the seating capacity of the auditorium was increased to \$700.00 and a new organ was procured. During the progress of the work worship services were held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on Chelsea Street.

The re-constructed edifice was dedicated on Thursday evening, January 28, 1892, the sermon being preached by Rev. A.J. Gordon who had officiated at the first dedication in 1874.

A bell weighing 2,000 lbs. was placed in the tower during this time; inscribed on it is the following "To the praise of God and the good of humanity, I was presented to the First Baptist Church in Everett, Mass. by Deacon Calvin Hosmer, A.D. 1891".

This bell, stilled now for a time, because of needed repairs to the church tower-has called people to worship for nearly 80 years and hopefully will

soon again be returning to its rightful use. During this same period a stained glass window was presented to the church by Mr. E.C. Mead. Through the beauty of its picture and the inscription "angel hands extend a welcome, smiling cherubs bid you come" and inspiration to those who gaze upon it and still speaks to us of our Eternal Home.

Note: During this week of Centennial Celebration, it has been our privilege to have as one of the speakers-Mr. George Rideout, one of Mr. Titus' grandsons. The Rideout family resided at 148 Linden Street for many years.

Rev. T. Richard Peede succeeded Mr. Titus and his ministry though covering only five years was an active and fruitful one. He was regarded as an able and scholarly preacher. Mrs. Peede taught a large class of young women and at her request the class took the name of "Mizpah".

Rev. A. Judson Hughes pastorate from 1905-1921 was marked by a most gratifying degree of harmony, activity and growth. It was during his ministry that the Women's benevolent and Missionary society became known as the "Women's Union". His powerful preaching was attested to by large congregations at all services.

In the summer of 1907, extensive improvements were again made in the auditorium of the church. In the fall of 1915, after approximately 24 years of service, a new organ was installed at a cost of \$2,500.00. One half of that amount being contributed by Andrew Carnegie.

Rev. Henry E. Hodge (1921-25) succeeded Mr. Hughes. He and Mrs. Hodge were beloved by all and her death came as a blow to the church and especially to the Mizpah Class where her work as teacher was outstanding.

Rev. Luther Holmes served as interim pastor from 1925-26. The Rev. George MacKay (1926-27) was the last pastor at the church on Broadway. It had been felt that extensive repairs would very soon be necessary and after careful consideration it was decided to sell the church property on Broadway and build on a more quiet street. The Hapgood property on Church St. was purchased and the present edifice was dedicated in June, 1928 during Mr. Hughes 2nd term as pastor.

The organ was removed to the new church and a gift of chimes from Miss Ella May Hersey had greatly enhanced the musical ministry since that time. The stained glass window given by the Meads and the bell by Deacon Rosmer were also moved to the new location.

Mr. Hughes passed away in 1931 a year after he terminated his second Pastorate at First Baptist. The total years of his ministry being eighteen. It is very fitting that the plot of land opposite the church should be set apart as "A.J. Rogers Park" and is maintained and beautiful by the city as a living memorial to the man who loved and served our church for so many years.

Dr. Harold Abbot (1930-1944) succeeded Mr. Hughes. During his Pastorate the Church, after prayerful consideration, adopted the "Faith Program" whereby the financial needs were met by the giving of "Tithes & Offerings". This program has produced most gratifying results since that time. A large Men's Class known as the "Brotherhood Associates" then came into being! It was soon necessary for the class to move from the vestry into the auditorium because of the large attendance.

A Junior choir was organized with Mrs. Clara Forbes as Director, soon after Dr. Abbot came and continued to add to the ministry of music for many years.



The mortgage of \$5,000.00 on the Parsonage which had been purchased soon after the church was built - was cancelled by a gift for that amount by the terms of the will of Mrs. Harriet Whitehill.

In 1941, Mr. A. Miles Herrold presented to the church three beautiful windows in memory of his mother, Mrs. Mame Herrold. These by means of effective lighting still send out the message of the Gospel and the Glorious Coming again of Christ, to all who pass the church.

After Dr. Abbot's resignation in 1944, the Rev. Horatio Chase served as Interim Pastor and shortly thereafter was asked to become the Pastor (1945-1951). During his ministry a Financial Campaign was embarked upon. This was supervised by Mr. Chase and met with great success.

Rev. Edward Dalglish (1951-52) from Gordon College served as Interim Pastor following Mr. Chase's resignation. It was during his ministry that the News Sheet now known as "The Friendly Messenger" had its inception and the church auditorium was carpeted-also major repairs were done on the exterior of the church during this time.

In 1952, Rev. Leslie MacInnes was called to become Pastor-he resigned in Dec. 1954 to go to a church in Coslinga, Calif. After less than a year in California, he was extended a call to return to Everett, accepted the call, and preached the first sermon of his second Pastorate on January 1, 1956. His total ministry at First Baptist covered almost seven years. Rev. Newton C. Schoenly served as Interim Pastor during Mr. MacInnes' one year absence.

During Mr. MacInnes' Pastorate, Mrs. MacInnes served as Missionary Committee Chairman and our Missionary giving had increased from a figure of



\$1,339.00 in 1951 to \$5,564.00 in 1961. "Pastor Mac" endeared himself to many by his tireless calling ministry - especially to the sick and shut-in of our church constituency.

1. In 1954 a new organ was purchased-the cost \$3,800.00 and was dedicated on Oct. 24, 1954. In 1960, two pianos were presented to the church in memory of Mr. & Mrs. C. Hodshart Forbes by their daughter. These were dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 10th.
2. The church mortgage burned June 23, 1957.
3. In 1959, through the efforts of the Young Men's Class known as the Andrew Class the backyard of the church was hot-topped for a parking and play area.
4. On Palm Sunday, Marcy 26, 1961, an electric organ was dedicated for use in the Memorial Chapel. A plaque was affixed to the organ bearing the names of those in whose memory it had been given.

In 1961, during our 90th anniversary year, a concentrated effort was made to raise \$9,000.00 to cover the cost of extensive repairs to the church boiler room and the installation of a new boiler.

Again Rev. MacInnes left us for a church in Tracy, California. His resignation took effect following the anniversary celebration in 1961. However, due to ill health, his ministry in Calif. was a very short one. He returned to Mass. in the summer of 1962 and in the fall of 1963, Leslie MacInnes was called Home to meet the Master whom he loved and had served so well.

Rev. Leymon Ketcham from Gordon College served as Interim Pastor from 1961-1962 and in 1962, Rev. Roy

Bohanan was extended a call to First Baptist. Both Mr. & Mrs. Bohanan were vitally interested in the promotion of missions in the church and were actively involved in the work of the Missionary Committee. During his ministry, the practice was adopted of taking communion to the shut-ins of the church on Communion Sunday.

In September 1963, we were able to become involved in the life of the community in a very real way by opening our doors to the Devens School-which had been completely destroyed by fire during the summer. This arrangement continued until the new Devens had been built. The entire first floor was used for classes; two first grades meeting in the Beginner's and Primary rooms and the Assembly Hall being used for kindergarten. During the summers, Daily Vacation Bible Schools were held with Mrs. Bohanan serving as General Director. Pastor Bohanan resigned in August 1968.

In January 1969, the Rev. Harold Deinstadt, Jr., became our Pastor. Again we were faced with the need for making extensive repairs to the church building. A concentrated effort has been made through a program called "Gideon's Shares" to raise as much as possible so that the most basic needs may be taken care of. Work has already been done on the exterior of the building and God has answered prayer and in the period of a little more than a year over \$10,000 has been received for this purpose. Mr. Deinstadt was also deeply interested in Missions.

In a History such as this, limited because of space, it is not possible to give a detailed record, gifts of time, of effort of prayer of dedication on the part of the Pastors and people throughout these 100 years. God holds that record. To Him we give Praise and Thanksgiving for giving strength and wisdom to meet the needs of the year.

As we look forward to other years and other anniversaries, we realize that the opportunities for service for Christ are indeed greater today than ever before. For re-dedication of lives to Him, for improved Prayer lines, for a yielding of ourselves to Christ that others may see Him in our daily walk, for a greater faithfulness among our people to the regular appointments of the church and on and on.

So in conclusion, we say "Thank you Lord for the opportunities which we have had in the past" and like Paul, may we "Continue to press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus". Phil. 3:14.



## FIRST BAPTIST PASTORATES

- 1871-1884 - Student Supplies
- 1884-1890 - Rev. William O. Ayer
- 1890-1900 - Rev. George B. Titus
- 1900-1905 - Rev. T. Richard Peede
- 1905-1921 - Rev. A. Judson Hughes
- 1921-1925 - Rev. Henry B. Hodge
- 1925-1926 - Rev. Luther Holmes (Interim)
- 1926-1927 - Rev. George MacKay
- 1927-1930 - Rev. A Judson Hughes
- 1930-1944 - Dr. Harold Abbot
- 1944-1951 - Rev. Horatio Chase
- 1951-1952 - Rev. Edward Dalgliah (Interim)
- 1952-1954 - Rev. Leslie MacInnes
- 1954-1955 - Rev. Newton C. Schoenly (Interim)
- 1955-1961 - Rev. Leslie MacInnes
- 1961-1962 - Rev. Leymon Ketcham (Interim)
- 1962-1968 - Rev. Roy I. Behannon
- 1968 - Rev. William Kershaw (Interim)
- 1969-1972 - Rev. Harold Deinhardt, Jr.
- 1972-1974 - Rev. Kenneth McCowan
- 1974- - Rev. Richard D. Concklin